Idris Kambala Mohammed

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U.S. Permanent Resident (Green Card)

Education

- **Ph.D. in Economics**, University of South Carolina (USC)   2020–Present
- **M.A. in Economics**, Ibn Haldun University   2020
- **B.A. in Economics**, Istanbul University   2018
- **B.A. in Public Finance** *(Double Major)*, Istanbul University   2018

Relevant Experience

Economist PhD Intern, Amazon   Seattle, WA   Summer 2025

- Evaluated Amazon's new *Brand Family Mapping* cataloging system using large-scale product–day panel data (24K products in the pilot; 714K in the expansion).
- Estimated short- and long-term impacts on Gross Merchandise Sales (GMS), Glance Views, and Search Impressions using Synthetic Difference-in-Differences.
- Conducted robustness checks using Difference-in-Differences, Regression Discontinuity in Time, Event Study, and Generalized Synthetic Control methods.
- Identified significant positive effects on product-level sales and customer engagement metrics (Glance Views and Search Impressions).
- Presented findings and recommendations to business and product teams, informing the decision to scale the Brand Family Mapping initiative.

Research Assistant, Research Division, Darla Moore School of Business   Columbia, SC 2022–Present

- Analyzed South Carolina's internationalization using panel data covering all 50 U.S. states (2002–2023), focusing on exports, imports, and FDI indicators.
- Applied econometric and trend-growth methods in Stata and R to evaluate structural shifts in trade and industry composition.
- Built state-level dashboards and cross-sectional comparisons showing SC's export share increase from 6.2% (2002) to 13.4% (2021), driven by transportation equipment.
- Co-authored *Internationalization of South Carolina's Economy* and presented findings to the SC Department of Commerce for strategy development.

Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, USC. Columbia, SC Fall 2024–Spring 2025

- Sole research assistant to Prof. Kathleen Broussard on two projects using National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG, 1973–2019) data to study fertility patterns and family dynamics.
- Conducted data preparation, statistical modeling, and visualization in R and Stata for analyses of unrealized fertility and its biopsychosocial determinants.
- Estimated disparities in fertility gaps and reproductive constraints across race, education, and income using multivariate and trend analyses across seven NSFG waves.
- Designed indicators for unrealized fertility based on differences between ideal, desired, and achieved fertility; findings presented at the 2024 Vienna Wittgenstein Centre Conference.
- Initiated secondary project examining how definitions and sociodemographic correlates of "large families" have evolved in the U.S. over time.

Research Assistant, Department of Geography, USC. Columbia, SC Fall 2023–Spring 2024

- Sole RA to Prof. Sicheng Wang on two projects analyzing U.S. telework, migration, and climate risk using American Community Survey (ACS) (2013–2023) and FEMA National Risk Index data (500K+ tract–year observations).
- Built multi-year panel datasets from the ACS and FEMA's National Risk Index, covering over 500,000 census-tract–year observations.
- Conducted spatial and econometric analysis in R, Stata, and ArcGIS to estimate demographic and environmental drivers of remote-work adoption and interstate migration.
- Co-authored two papers on national telework trends and telework–climate risk interactions, showing increased migration into higher-risk areas among remote workers.

Technical Skills

- Python, R, SQL, Stata, ArcGIS, LaTeX
- Causal inference methods, panel data methods

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, University of South Carolina   2024–Present
- *Introduction to Economics*: Taught 45–50 undergraduate students for 3 semesters; achieved improving instructor ratings from 3.72 (Spring 2024) to 4.58 (Spring 2025), with 4.75–4.83 in preparedness, grading, and knowledge.
- *Honors Thesis Seminar*: Guided 50 students annually (two in-person sections of 15 students each and one online section of 20) through independent research projects from proposal development to thesis defense.

Selected Publications & Projects

- **Colonial Origins of Comparative Development in Ghana.** *Journal of Development Studies*, 59(2), 188–208, 2023. doi
- **The Impact of Precolonial Political Centralisation on Local Development: Ghana's Paradox.** *Oxford Development Studies*, 51(2), 163–178, 2023. doi
- **Democratization and Development:** Evaluated Africa's democratization wave using panel and regression discontinuity designs.
- **Subnational Governance Quality and Wellbeing:** Estimated causal effects of governance quality on wellbeing using IV models.
- **Early-life Adversity and Long-term Outcomes:** Quantified persistent effects of early-life crisis using difference-in-differences.

Awards

- Sanjaya Lall Award (Best Article), *Oxford Development Studies* (2024)
- Graduate Student Award, *Southern Economic Association* (2023)
- Best Paper Award, 3rd *Social, Humanities and Management Sciences Graduate Studies Conference*, Ibn Haldun University, Turkey (2020)